

3 – SOLOMON'S RETRIBUTION & WISDOM (1 KINGS 2:13-3:28; 2 CHRONICLES 1:1-12)

I. Solomon's Retribution (1 Kings 2:13-46)

A. Adonijah's Request (1 Kings 2:13-18)

- Adonijah approached Bathsheba and stated that he came peaceably.
- Adonijah claimed that the nation had expectations for him to be king.
- He also stated that the Lord gave the kingdom to his brother.
- He wanted Bathsheba to ask Solomon to give Abishag to him as wife.
- Bathsheba told him that she would speak to the king about this.

B. Solomon's Response (1 Kings 2:19-24)

- When Bathsheba approach Solomon, he honored her by standing and bowing before her.
- A throne was brought for her and she was seated at Solomon's right hand.
- Bathsheba told him that she had a request and wanted him to grant it.
- Solomon replied that he would not refuse a request from her.
- She asked that Abishag be given to Adonijah as wife.
- Solomon questioned why she would make that request.
- Solomon also asked if she wanted him to give Adonijah the kingdom.
- Solomon also identified Abiathar the priest and Joab as being a part of this conspiracy.
- Solomon pronounced that Adonijah by his own request has brought to himself death.

C. Retribution Against the Conspirators (1 Kings 2:25-35)

1. Adonijah (1 Kings 2:25)

- Adonijah was executed that very day by the hand of Benaiah.

2. Abiathar the Priest (1 Kings 2:26-27)

- Solomon told Abiathar to retire to his fields in Anathoth.

Israel's Kings & Prophets: A Survey of 1 & 2 Kings, 2 Chronicles

- Abiathar was worthy of death, but he was the High Priest and suffered with David.
- His removal as High Priest was a fulfillment of the Lord's word to Eli.

SCRIPTURE 1 Samuel 2:30-35

³⁰Therefore the Lord God of Israel says: 'I said indeed *that* your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.' But now the Lord says: 'Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed. ³¹Behold, the days are coming that I will cut off your arm and the arm of your father's house, so that there will not be an old man in your house. ³²And you will see an enemy *in My* dwelling place, *despite* all the good which God does for Israel. And there shall not be an old man in your house forever. ³³But any of your men *whom* I do not cut off from My altar shall consume your eyes and grieve your heart. And all the descendants of your house shall die in the flower of their age. ³⁴Now this *shall be* a sign to you that will come upon your two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas: in one day they shall die, both of them. ³⁵Then I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest *who* shall do according to what *is* in My heart and in My mind. I will build him a sure house, and he shall walk before My anointed forever.

3. Joab (1 Kings 2:28-35)

- When the news reached Joab, he went to the Tabernacle to cling to the horns of the Altar.
- Solomon sent Benaiah to call Joab to come from the Tabernacle, but he refused.
- Solomon ordered Benaiah to kill Joab for the murders of Abner and Amasa.
- Killing Joab would remove the shame of the murders from the House of David.
- Benaiah killed Joab by the Altar and he was buried in own land in the wilderness.
- Solomon placed Benaiah as the commander over the army and Zadok as the High Priest.

D. Retribution Against Shimei (1 Kings 2:36-46)

- Solomon summoned Shimei and told him to build a house in Jerusalem.
- Shimei was not allowed to leave the city and would die if he crossed the Brook Kidron.
- Shimei stated that Solomon's word was good and he committed himself to it.
- A while later, two slaves escaped from Shimei and went to Gath.
- Shimei went to Gath to get his slaves and returned back to Jerusalem.
- Solomon was told that Shimei left for Gath and came back.
- Solomon confronted Shimei with his breaking the command not leave Jerusalem.

Israel's Kings & Prophets: A Survey of 1 & 2 Kings, 2 Chronicles

- Solomon also pointed out Shimei's wickedness toward David.
- Solomon commanded Benaiah strike Shimei down with the sword.
- The writer points out that the kingdom was now established in the hand of Solomon.

II. Solomon's Wisdom (1 Kings 3:1-28; 2 Chronicles 1:1-12)

A. The Nature of the Time (1 Kings 3:1-3)

- Having made a treaty with Pharaoh, Solomon married his daughter.
- Because there was no Temple yet, the people sacrificed at the high places.
- Solomon loved the Lord and walked in the statutes of his father David.
- However, Solomon did sacrifice and burn incense in the high places.

B. The Lord Appears to Solomon (1 Kings 3:4-15; 2 Chronicles 1:1-12)

- Solomon gathered the assembly and went to the most important high place in Gibeon.
- At the Tabernacle, Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings.
- That evening, the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream.
- Solomon was to ask the Lord what he should give Solomon.
- Solomon recounted what the Lord had done for his father and he humbled himself before him.
- He then asked the Lord to grant him wisdom to judge the Lord's people Israel.
- Because this request from Solomon pleased the Lord, he granted him wisdom and riches.
- He also told Solomon that if he walked in the Lord's commandments, he will lengthen his days.

C. The Case of the Two Prostitutes (1 Kings 3:16-28)

A. The Call for Help (1 Kings 3:16-22)

- Two harlots came to the king in order to resolve their problem about a child.
- The first woman stated that they live together in the same house.
- The first woman gave birth to a child and three days later the other woman gave birth.
- The second woman's child died because the woman lay on him as they slept.

Israel's Kings & Prophets: A Survey of 1 & 2 Kings, 2 Chronicles

- That woman rose in the evening and traded her dead child for the living child.
- The second woman claimed the living child was her son.

B. Solomon's Judgment (1 Kings 3:23-28)

- Solomon called for a sword to be brought to him.
- He commanded that the child be divided in two and each woman would receive a part.
- Feeling compassion for her son, the first woman cried out to the king.
- She called for the child to be given to the second woman so that he might live.
- The second woman called for the child to be divided so no one has him.
- Solomon commanded that the child be given to the first woman since she is the mother.
- All Israel feared Solomon when they saw the wisdom of God was in him.